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FURTHER NOTES ON INSECT VISITORS.

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**FURTHER NOTES ON INSECT VISITORS TO THE FLOWERS OF
SEA ASTER, *ASTER TRIPOLIUM* LINN.
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The Sea Aster occurs along almost the whole of the British coasts but the records of its insect visitors seem remarkably scanty. In 1942 a list of 2 species of Coleoptera, 5 of Hymenoptera, 10 Diptera and *Lycaena phlaeas*, L., the only Lepidopteron, were recorded, *J. of Evol.*, 30: 392-3. The following year I made a point of examining some Sea Aster plants when in Cornwall in August and was able to add 3 species of Lepidoptera and 2 Diptera to the list, 1944, *J. Soc. Brit. Ent.*

Much to my surprise I have not found any further notes or records published. Surely other entomologists have collected off, or have seen insects visiting Sea Asters. My next opportunity to examine some of these flowerheads came in 1947 when I found two Syrphidae—*Tubifera* [*Eristalis*] *tenax*, L., and **Tubifera arbustorum*, L., taking nectar from this flower at Stone, Kent. This added one more species to the list, for *arbustorum* had not previously been noted.

In 1948 I was luckier and was able to study the plant in Pembrokeshire and Dorset, finding a number of species taking its nectar. The localities were a small patch in the Gann estuary near Dale, Pembs., and a large area of marsh near Weymouth. About one hour was spent on the work on each occasion. It was sunny on both days at Dale but dull at Weymouth. The list is as follows:—

COLEOPTERA. *Cantharidae*. **Rhagonycha fulva* Scop., Dale, 3rd August.

LEPIDOPTERA. *Pieridae*. **Pieris napi* L., **P. rapae* L., *Satyridae*. **Maniola tilhonus* L., all at Dale, 3rd August.

HYMENOPTERA. *Apidae*. *Apis mellifera* L., abundant at Weymouth, 18th August.

DIPTERA.

	Dale. 3rd Aug.	Dale. 7th Aug.	Weymouth. 18th Aug.
<i>Empididae</i> . * <i>Empis livida</i> L.	1♂	—	—
<i>Dolichopodidae</i> . * <i>Dolichopus grisei-</i> <i>pennis</i> Stann.	—	—	1♀
* <i>D. nubitus</i> Mg.	1♂	—	1♀
* <i>D. plumipes</i> Scop.	—	—	1♂
<i>Phoridae</i> . * <i>Phora aterrima</i> F.	1♂ (det. C. N. Colyer)	—	—
<i>Syrphidae</i> . * <i>Paragopsis</i> [<i>Eumerus</i>] <i>strigatus</i> Fln.	1♂	—	—
* <i>Cheilosia</i> [<i>Pyrophaena</i>] <i>grandi-</i> <i>tarsa</i> Forster	—	—	1♂ 1♀
* <i>Epsyrphus</i> [<i>Syrphus</i>] <i>balteatus</i> Deg.	—	—	1♂ 1♀
* <i>Metasyrphus</i> [<i>Syrphus</i>] <i>consisto</i> Harr. [<i>corollae</i> Fab.]	—	1♂	1♂
* <i>Paragus libialis</i> Fln.	1♂ 1♀	—	—
<i>Platycheirus manicatus</i> Mg.	1♀	—	3♀ ♀
* <i>Sphaerophoria rüppellii</i> Wied.	1♂	—	—
* <i>S. scripta</i> L.	1♂	3♂ ♂	1♂
* <i>Sulcatella metallina</i> Fab.	—	—	1♀
* <i>Syritta pipiens</i> L.	1♂	2♂ ♂	3♂ ♂
* <i>Tubifera</i> [<i>Eristalis</i>] <i>arbustorum</i> L.	—	—	1♀
<i>T. [E.] tyra</i> Harr. [<i>abusirus</i> Collin]	—	—	2♀ ♀
<i>T. [E.] tenax</i> L.	—	—	7♂ ♂ 10♀ ♀

<i>Trypetidae</i> . * <i>Paroxyna plantaginis</i> Hal.	—	—	1♂
<i>Coetopidae</i> . * <i>Coelopa exima</i> Stenh.	—	—	1♀
<i>Cordiluridae</i> . <i>Scopeuma</i> [<i>Scatophaga</i>] <i>stercorarium</i> L.	—	—	17♂♂
* <i>Scatomyia</i> [<i>Scatophaga</i>] <i>litorea</i> Flin.	1♂ 1♀	2♂♂	—
<i>Larcaeoridae</i> . * <i>Eriothrix rufomaculatus</i> Deg.	—	—	1♂
<i>Calliphoridae</i> . * <i>Calliphora erythrocephala</i> Mg.	—	—	1♂ 4♀
* <i>Lucilia sericata</i> Mg.	—	—	2♂ 1♀
* <i>L. silvarum</i> Mg.	—	1♂	—
* <i>Melinda gentilis</i> R.D.	—	—	1♂
* <i>Onesia agilis</i> Mg.	2♂♂	2♂♂	—
<i>Onesia</i> species indet.	1♀	—	—
* <i>Sarcophaga carnaria</i> L.	1♂	1♂	1♂
<i>Sarcophaga</i> species indet.	—	1♀	—
<i>Muscidae</i> . * <i>Caricea tigrina</i> Fab.	—	—	2♂♂
* <i>Musca autumnalis</i> Deg.	—	—	4♂♂ 6♀♀
<i>Orthellia caesarion</i> Mg.	1♀	1♀	47 (sexes about equal)

Nomenclature is that of *A Check List of British Insects* by G. S. Kloet and W. D. Hincks with some synonyms [in square brackets] to assist those using Verrall's List.

Those marked * are additional to the lists previously published and indicate the scope for simple original work suitable for most amateur entomologists.

One is tempted to comment despite the still meagre amount of study. The inclusion of 3 species of *Dolichopus* surprised me as I previously had but one record of a *Dolichopus* visiting a flower—*Dolichopus unguilatus*, L., on *Heracleum sphondylium*, L. (Hogweed).

Orthellia caesarion, Mg., was particularly abundant in the Weymouth salt marsh and although this would account for its preponderance in the above table it must be noted that it seems a constant visitor, for it was found in Cornwall in 1943 as well as in both Pems. and Dorset in 1948 on this flower.

One of the most abundant flies in the Weymouth marsh was the Trypetid—*Paroxyna plantaginis*. Curiously only one specimen was seen on the flowerhead, a ♂ taking nectar, when the species is known to breed in the flower heads!

The numbers seen of various species and their occurrence in both counties suggests that many of the flies visit Sea Asters regularly. Although I watched carefully, not once did I notice a fly leaving the Sea Asters for other flowers.

REFERENCES.

- Parmenter, L. 1944. *Insect Visitors to the Flowers of Sea Aster, Aster tripolium* L. *J. Soc. Brit. Ent.*, 2: 213.
- Clapham, A. R., Pearsall, W. H., and Richards, P. W. 1942. *Aster tripolium* L. *J. of Ecol.*, 30: 392-3.
- Parmenter, L. 1942. *Dolichopodidae* (Dipt.) associated with Flowers. *Ent. Mon. Mag.*, 78: 252.
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